

Written Testimony of:
Timothy Sadler
PV System Designer and
Sales Representative
Ross Solar Group, LLC
72 Gray's Bridge Road, Suite 1C
Brookfield, CT 06804
Phone: 203-512-4500

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Written Testimony of Timothy Sadler, 932 North River Rd., Coventry, CT 06238 concerning:
Senate Bill 1, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY POLICY AND FINANCE

I graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University in the winter of 2010, and by the fifth month of searching 8 hours per day for full-time employment in the environmental field, my frustration was palpable. Unlike many of my fellow graduates, I was lucky enough to find a job. I was hired in June 2010 with Ross Solar Group of Brookfield, CT, as a sales representative. Come to find out, the only reason the job position was open was because the previous sales representative had moved to New Jersey due to their much better solar incentives!

Fossil fuels are a finite resource! It is generally accepted that oil and coal will not be the energy of tomorrow. The world needs renewable energy technologies to help feed a growing populations insatiable appetite for energy. Most countries have recognized the need to shift to renewable energy and have primarily turned to photovoltaic technology for electricity. European countries such as Germany have shown that solar is a reliable, proven technology. Connecticut's neighboring states have also recognized its citizens' desire to shift to solar energy, providing SREC incentives that bring the payback on investment period down to 3-5 years. Generally, Connecticut's current period of return on a solar PV investment is 8-10 years. Often times this does not make the investment viable for residents. Other states will continue to expand their solar infrastructure. Whether Connecticut keeps up with the rest of the country or not, depends on this energy bill.

The nationwide unemployment crisis has not spared Connecticut by any means. Candidates of any political party, running for virtually any public office, have run on the premise that creating jobs is their number one priority. My company receives requests for employment all the time and unfortunately we cannot hire them due to the uncertainty of the Connecticut solar market. This energy bill is the perfect opportunity to create hundreds of long term, stable careers in Connecticut. In order to provide these jobs, the energy bill must ensure a high value for SRECs as well as a 10 year scope of procuring SRECs. These SREC characteristics will drive up demand for solar among consumers, as well as new employment to meet the consumers' demand for many years to come.

Besides creating these jobs, the SREC program most importantly will benefit the consumer. 95% of the residents I speak with are hard-working, middle class folks who want to find a way to lower their electricity costs. Very often, the investment in solar does not pay for itself in a short enough time for the

investment to make sense for people. These working-class people are tired of being subject to continuously rising utility rates, with no alternative but to keep paying higher rates. Utility companies will say that this energy bill will increase utility rates, but looking at our neighboring states of New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania who have adopted the SREC, we see there is no measurable increase of utility rates due to SRECs. Also, the SREC cannot be applied to hydrogen or hydro-power as this will not benefit the citizens of Connecticut in any way! However, everyone in the state of Connecticut will benefit from SRECs if they are used for solar!

Connecticut is my home and solar energy is the future. Connecticut has the opportunity to be leaders into the future by providing a solid foundation of reliable, renewable energy and lasting careers for the hard-working people of Connecticut. The people of Connecticut are ready and willing to embrace solar!

Thank you for your consideration,

Timothy Sadler